(c) what are the reasons that have contributed to the shrinking of forests in North-Eastern region; and

(d) what steps Government are considering to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) According to the assessment made by the Forest Survey of India based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the periods 1981—83 and 1985—87, a decrease in actual forest cover has been indicated in the following States mainly due to shifting cultivation and unregulated felling:

Assam	1.26 per cent
Meghalaya	4.97 per cent
Mizoram	4.78 per cent
Tripura	7.2 per cent

(d) The Government have taken following steps to check it: (i) Afforestation programme have been launched under 20 Point Programme.

(2) Guidelines have been issued to prepare working plan for all the forest areas.

(3) As per available information under the centrally sponsored scheme of shifting cultivation, 26,532 famalies have been selected for rehabilitation in nine states for which total outlay of Rs. 174 crores is envisaged. During the four years, 1987-88 to 1990-91 a sum of Rs. 50.91 crores has been released as a Central Assistant to the nine states for implementation of this scheme.

Private Sector Industries Under Envvironment (Protection) Act

506. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a act that Government have decided to bring private sector industries under the purview of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the big industries in private and public sector which are polluting major rivers in Karnataka; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Public and private industries have been under the purrview of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 since its inception.

(c) and (d) Data is being collected from State authorities and shall be laid on the table of the house as it is available.

Forest conservation Act, 1980

507. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has represented for amending the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 with a view to confer power on the State Government to divert the forest lands upto five hectares for important project; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRNOMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such formal proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

Hydro electricity projects in Karnataka

508. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of hydro-electricity projects of Karnataka are pending environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects and the reasons for the delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No hydro-electric project from Karnataka is pending for environmental clearance.

Reorganisation of O. N. G. C.

509. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for reorganisation the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) as suggested by the international funding bodies with a view to achieve better results; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISETR OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No decision to reorganise ONGC has been taken by the Government.

Air Pollution

510. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, to the effect that Air Pollution has assumed such alarming proportions, in several cities and rural areas, that the air in Bombay is as harmful as smoking ten cigarettes a day;

(b) whether Government have formulated any long-term plan to countenance this menace in the metropolitan cities and to educate the general public of its ill-effects; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The statement is qualitative in nature and does not appear to be based on any scientific studies comparing air quality levels and cigarette smoking carried out either in Bombay or in the other metropolitan cities.

(b) and (c) According to the ambient air quality survey, the air pollution levels in our metropolitan cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits. While the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits, the particulate matter is on the higher side. This is due to natural dusty conditions and industrial activities including thermal power plants. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has monitored carbon monoxide levels at traffic junctions in Bombay. It is observed that the carbon monoxide levels at the traffic junctions were found in the range of 8.2 to 20.3 ppm. These higher levels are due to heavy traffic of automobiles. However, the ambient air quality levels of carbon monoxide in the residential areas are well within the limits. However, from smoking, the carbon monoxide exposure is of several orders of magnitude over the levels that have been found at various traffic junctions in Bombay. 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent/emission standards by 31-12-1991. Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The